

me. More minute examination of the whole structure than I have yet had the opportunity of making, and to judge of its anatomy, plans, and sections, would be requisite, and may probably induce me to qualify some of my observations, which were intended to be, and no doubt have been received, as chiefly expressing general impressions.

"Scrutator" himself is not altogether impartial; he seems disposed to decry the building, and is evidently no admirer of its general style. As to the portico, if he considers that of the London University to be superior, I will not quarrel with him on that score, being quite as much disposed to admire it as himself. Both, I should say, are admirable of their kind; and there are beauties in that of the Exchange which the other does not possess, and *vice versa*. I did not argue from it any thing as to "the superior genius of Mr. Tite," for what he has there done might have been done again and again before, did they ever think of introducing inner columns. That you yourself consider them highly conducive to effect is apparent from what you say in a note respecting those in the small composition at the west angle of the Bank:

At all events, "Scrutator" has made one mistake; one of no moment otherwise than as it attributes to one publication what belongs to another, and may lead persons to suppose that it was the *Athenæum*, instead of the *Westminster Review*, which attacked Mr. Tite's design so severely.—I remain, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

THE WRITER IN THE MORNING HERALD.

Vault DESTROYED BY PLACING BRICKS THEREON.

SIR,—I hope you will excuse me while asking you a question; I do so, believing that you are always willing to communicate information relating to the law of building in all its details.

I and another person purchased two carcasses of houses in July last, we having nearly finished ours, and had the paving done by the parish; but last week a man from the other side of the road, placed some bricks on the paving in front of one of the houses without my consent; the consequence was that, an excavation being made some time since, without a vault or any shores being placed against the last wall of the vault of my house, the abutment gave way, and in came the arch of the vault, and also the paving. The wall has stood since July; it was 14 in. thick, built in cement, but still gave way in one mass. This, doubtless, would not have occurred had the bricks not been placed there; neither do I believe the vault could have gone in without the abutment giving way. The person who placed the bricks there is willing to bear half the expense, but the other refuses to be any thing towards putting it up again, and I can ill afford to do so, as it is almost out of my power, being but a journeyman carpenter, and having had some difficulty in finishing it thus far.

Your experience will perhaps enable you to tell me how to act in this case, and you will greatly oblige a working man.—Yours respectfully,

November 18, 1844.

[We suppose, as far as we can judge from the circumstances, as described, that the placing of the bricks upon the public paving was a public offence, and is punishable, and also that the offender ought fully to make good the damage.—Ed.]

NEW METROPOLITAN BUILDING-ACT.

SIR,—Though no builder, I have nevertheless taken in, for the last three months regularly, your very interesting and useful work *THE BUILDER*, till it has almost made me one; at all events, I think of building myself a six-roomed house before the new Act comes in force; but my means being very limited just now, I would rather defer it till after January, as I shall be then prepared more for the undertaking. But there are so many opinions about the new Act, even amongst builders themselves, some saying one thing, some another, that I scarcely know which to believe; however, I have purchased the Act as printed and published by you. To set all doubts at rest on my part, and as I am a poor man, I will consider it a lasting favour, if you will be kind enough to inform

me in your next whether old bricks by the new Act are prohibited to be used in dwelling-houses; I see nothing mentioned of it in your version of the Act; and if it is so, it appears to me an absurdity, for it is well known that many of the old bricks are infinitely better than half of what are at the present day called new stocks. Besides, when old houses are to be sold or pulled down, who will buy them? In conclusion, I entreat that you will please to answer my question in your next, as I shall then see my way better; because if old bricks are allowed to be used, I shall have no cause to involve myself by beginning before January. And may I ask as a further favour of you to let me know when the adjoining owner (as I intend building against the party-wall of another person) is entitled to come on me for my share of expense for such party-wall? Trusting you will oblige me on this only occasion, I beg to remain very respectfully

Your humble servant,

RICHARD DUFFIELD.

23, Britannia-street, City-road,

Nov. 15, 1844.

[The use of old bricks is not forbidden by the new Act; but if any question arise as to their soundness, the official referees are to decide, being thereto required in writing. With regard to the time when old party-walls are to be paid for by adjoining parties, we are not at present clear, but will consider the subject, and report further.—Ed.]

ON PAYNISING TIMBER.

SIR,—In your last number, under the head of "Mr. Valentine's Substitute for the Iron Rail," I observe it stated that the wood be uses is prepared by the process called "Kyanising," yet the detail given of the process, and the experiment quoted, evidently shew that it is the patent process of Mr. C. Payne, and not that of Mr. Kyan, that is employed. The erroneous introduction of the term "Kyanising" (instead, as probably was intended, "Paynising") may mislead some of your readers unacquainted with the nature of the two processes, and I think it will be satisfactory to you to have thus the opportunity of rectifying the mistake.—I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

J. H.

CHURCH-BUILDING INTELLIGENCE, &c.

Magnificent Donation in Aid of the Restoration and Extension of St. Mary de Crypt Church.—We have, upon many occasions, called the attention of our readers to the good work of restoration which, for the last year, has been steadily progressing in this fine old church, and have expressed our earnest wishes that the sanguine hopes of the Rev. A. Sayers, the rector, would be realized, and that he would meet with such support as would enable him to rescue this beautiful building, not merely from further dilapidation, but to restore it in all its parts. We have now the pleasing duty of announcing the truly liberal donation of 500*l.*, which has been presented, in the most handsome manner, to the rector, by the executors and devisees of the late James Wood, Esq.—J. S. Surman, Esq., and Jacob Osborne, Esq., the heirs of the late Sir M. Wood, Bart.; W. P. Price, Esq., and E. Shelton, Esq.—to enable him to complete his praiseworthy designs. The sum already subscribed, including the above donation, amounts to nearly 1,000*l.*, which, although not within the estimate of the architects, Messrs. Dawkes and Hamilton, by nearly 200*l.*, will fully justify the further progress of the works, as we have no doubt that a much larger sum, if required, will be forthcoming. The chancel, with the exception of the monumental window to the late rector, the Rev. J. G. Dowling, will be completed by Christmas; and the restoration of the nave, new pewing, &c., will be commenced when the requisite facilities are obtained. We look forward with more than common interest to the restoration of St. Mary de Crypt: when fully restored, it will be one of the most perfect cruciform churches in the land.—*Gloucestershire Chronicle*.

New Tower to Leigh Church, Essex.—The Rev. Robert Eden, rector of Leigh, has lately expended nearly seven hundred pounds in the erection of a tower to his church.

Queen Adelaide's Church at Malta.—This church, which has been built at the sole expense of her Majesty the Queen Dowager, is placed on a commanding site, overlooking the Quarantine Harbour, and is one of the first objects which meets the eye of a stranger on approaching the island from the north or the west. The building has been brought into its present state by the skill of Mr. Scamp, the successor of the first architect. The spire, when finished, will be about 200 feet high, and about 300 above the level of the sea. The body of the church and portico are not much unlike those of St. Martin's-in-the-fields in their exterior aspect; and the beauty of the stone of which it is built gives it a very striking appearance. The internal effect is still better. It has a semi-circular chancel, and is divided into a nave and two side aisles by two rows of beautiful Corinthian pillars. With the exception of two pews, one for the Governor and the other for the Admiral, the seats are all open with backs. The whole of the seats, stalls, pulpit, and reading desk, are of English oak. The font, of white Carrara marble, is the gift of the late Mr. J. W. Bowden. The church was consecrated on the 1st instant, by the Bishop of Gibraltar, and is to be called "The English Collegiate Church of St. Paul, in Malta."—*Times*.

Church Restoration in York.—A gratifying sign of the times is exhibited in the attention which is now devoted to the restoration of our ancient ecclesiastical fabrics. The west front of the church of St. Helen's, York, has been repaired. St. Saviour's Church is being nearly rebuilt. On removing the old whitewash from the pillars and arches which separate the aisles from the body of the church, traces have been found of paintings on the walls—one of which, representing Moses bearing the Ten Commandments, is in a state of perfection hardly to be expected. The beautiful parish church of St. Martin-le-Grand is also undergoing some restoration. The church of St. Martin-cum-Gregory is undergoing an extensive restoration in its tower. In the church of All Saints, the three east windows of richly-stained glass have been re-glazed, repaired, and fixed in new stone mullions and tracery. The church of St. Sampson, which is in a serious state of dilapidation, has been closed, and steps are being taken for raising a requisite fund to undertake its complete renovation.—*Doncaster Gazette*.

New Churches in Kingwinford.—The population of the parish of Kingwinford, Staffordshire, having increased to nearly 24,000, the rector, Dr. Penfold, by the aid of the ecclesiastical commissioners, has succeeded in dividing the parish into six districts; containing 4,000 each, and it is intended each shall have its church (there are now three), its parsonage house, resident minister, and national schools. In one of the new districts, Brockmoor, a very interesting ceremony took place on the 12th ultimo, when the first stone of a new church, situated in the midst of a dense population, surrounded by coal and iron works, was laid by the Lady Ward, in the presence of the clergy, churchwardens, and numerous inhabitants.

Boston Church.—We understand that the order made some time ago by the Boston town council (who are the lay improprisors) for the re-glazing of the chancel windows with lozenge-shaped panes, cannot at present be acted upon the improprisors having expended their large funds in lay objects. The massive Corinthian altar-screen should be replaced by a reredos, in keeping with the rest of the architecture, and if the east windows were to consist of stained glass, the effect would be very imposing. A separate subscription should be started for that express purpose: the required amount would soon be raised, as those who refused to contribute towards the repairs of the body of the church would doubtless gladly contribute towards the ornamenting this beautiful edifice.—*Lincolnshire Chronicle*.

St. Martin's Church, Hereford.—We understand that the consecration of this edifice is postponed to the spring, when the weather will doubtless be more favourable. The progress of the fabric is in all respects satisfactory—alike creditable to the architect, builder, superintendent, and workmen; and will unquestionably form one of the greatest architectural ornaments to the city.—*Hereford Times*.